

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 26 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 9-11, 13, 15-16 and 21-26 are currently amended to distinctly claim the subject matter contained therein (as discussed below) and/or to provide sufficient antecedent basis.

**CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claims 1 and 26 are objected to because, according to the Examiner, the nodes in claims 1 and 26 cannot both “not send messages” as well as “send requests to the master.” The Examiner believes the claims should recite “from the master” rather than “to the master” and has used this interpretation in the remainder of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation and have amended claims 1 and 26 in an attempt to distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these amendments appears at least in FIG. 3 and paragraph [0028] of the published application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

**VOTH + RAWSON**

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 12, 14, 16-17, 19-20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,351,821 to Voth (“Voth”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,756 to Rawson III (“Rawson”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Claim 1 recites a method for synchronizing network nodes in a subnetwork, comprising, among other things, insuring no unauthorized communication takes place in a subnetwork by instructing the network nodes not to send any message **to the master without a prior request.** (Emphases Added)

Admitting the deficiencies of Voth in disclosing each and every limitation of claim 1, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Rawson to cure the noted deficiencies. Particularly, it is alleged in the Office Action that Rawson discloses “by instructing the network nodes not to send any message to the master without a request,” as required by claim 1.

Rawson is directed to a system and method for synchronizing a set of nodes connected to a central switch in a multi-node data processing system, such as a NUMA data processing system. As is mentioned, in the first step in the synchronization process, packet traffic among a set of nodes is halted by broadcasting a halt traffic packet to each of the nodes. Rawson, column 2, lines 1-10. The central switch then retrieves time base register values from each of the set of nodes. *Id.* Namely, the central switch halts the packet traffic and reads time based register values. There is *no* prior request to the central switch from any of the Rawson nodes.

Rawson fails to teach or fairly suggest “by instructing the network nodes not to send any message **to the master without a prior request,**” as recited in claim 1 and the somewhat similar features recited in independent claim 26. (Emphasis Added)

Rawson fails to overcome the noted deficiencies of Voth. Therefore, the combination of Voth and Rawson fails to render the limitations of claims 1 and 26 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2, 4-8, 12, 14, 16-17, 19-20, dependent on independent claim 1, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 as well as for their own merits.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1-2, 4-8, 12, 14, 16-17, 19-20 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

**VOTH + RAWSON + RAPPAPORT**

Claims 3, 11, 13, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voth in view of Rawson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,973,622 ("Rappaport"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3, 11, 13, 15, and 18 are patentable over Voth and Rawson, as discussed above, as Voth and Rawson, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest all of the features as recited in claim 1, the independent claim from which the rejected claims depend. Further, Rappaport would fail to overcome the noted deficiencies of Voth and Rawson (even if combinable, which is not admitted). Therefore, the combination of Voth, Rawson and Rappaport fails to render the subject matter of claims 3, 11, 13, 15 and 18 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3, 11, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

**VOTH + RAWSON + BERTHAUD**

Claims 9, 21 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voth in view of Rawson and further in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,157,957 ("Berthaud"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 9, 21 and 23-25 are patentable over Voth and Rawson, as discussed above, as Voth and Rawson, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest all of the features as recited in claim 1, the independent claim from which the rejected claims depend. Further, Berthaud would fail to overcome the noted deficiencies of Voth and Rawson (even if combinable, which is not admitted). Therefore, the combination of Voth, Rawson and Berthaud fails to render the subject matter of claims 9, 21 and 23-25 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9, 21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

**VOTH + RAWSON + RENGANARAYANAN**

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voth in view of Rawson and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0158971 ("Renganarayanan"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 10 is patentable over Voth and Rawson, as discussed above, as Voth and Rawson, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest all of the features as recited in claim 1, the independent claim from which the rejected claim depends. Further, Renganarayanan would fail to overcome the noted deficiencies of Voth and Rawson (even if combinable, which is not admitted). Therefore, the combination of Voth, Rawson and Renganarayanan fails to render the subject matter of claim 10 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

**INTERVIEW REQUESTED**

If the Examiner remains unconvinced by the arguments set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number below to arrange for a mutually convenient time to conduct an interview in connection with the present application.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

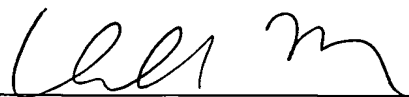
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
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